

Communication on Engagement
Report
Transparency International Greenland



Transparency International Greenland

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FOREWORD

Letter from the chairwoman

Transparency International Greenland (TIG) is the Greenlandic chapter of the international NGO, Transparency International. Established in 2011, we are working to promote transparency, counter corruption and promote fair practices in society, in business and the public sector in Greenland. We have 23 corporate members and more than 50 private members, which together with a high degree of visibility on social media and in National newspapers have made us one of the most significant NGOs in Greenland.

In 2013, we decided to join the UN Global Compact. This decision was based on a strong interest in supporting the ten principles for responsible business conduct, but also to stress the importance of the tenth principle, 'to fight corruption and extortion in all its forms'.

We work closely with CSR Greenland, the local UN Global Compact contact point in Greenland, to help companies work with the 10th principle of the UN Global Compact focusing on anticorruption. Our work with raising awareness, engaging companies and public sector institutions alike, provide training and insights for companies among other things are described in this report.

This is our 4. Report. We include elements from our start as an organization in 2011, but focus is on events and activities in the reporting period August 2019 – June 30th, 2021.

We continue to strongly support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. If you have ideas and suggestions how we can work even more with the principles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Anita Hoffer

Transparency International Greenland, Board

Info@transparency.gl

BACKGROUND: CORRUPTION IN GREENLAND

Why work with corruption in Greenland?

Corruption exists in all sectors and at all levels of society, and involves more than just bribery, fraud and embezzlement. Other kinds of abuse of power can also be corrupt, such as kickbacks, gifts, entertainment, favours for friends, favouritism and nepotism. A common denominator for these problems is provided in the broad definition of corruption used by Transparency International (TI):

Corruption is defined by Transparency International as *the abuse of entrusted power for private gain*.

Regardless of its form, corruption harms a society by creating unequal conditions and distrust, and by discouraging free competition. According to the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), corruption is the most significant barrier to sustainable development in a global perspective. Corruption is by its nature a sensitive issue and can therefore be difficult to identify – but its enemy is transparency. That is why TI fights corruption by promoting transparency in all sectors – at global, national, and local level.

TI regularly publishes reports on global corruption. This applies, among other things in areas such as climate change, education, the private sector, and the legal system.

The nature and extent of corruption in Greenland has not yet been monitored by independent bodies and has thus not been registered in TI's global perception index of corruption. Greenland therefore appears as a white spot on the corruption index world map. This seems paradoxical in a time of growing geopolitical, military, and commercial interest in the Arctic and in Greenland's natural resources and emphasises the need to focus on this area in Greenland, too.

Greenland's mineral resources have a huge potential which the oil and mining industries wish to exploit. By reputation, these industries are among the most corrupt in the world¹ This is a source of concern to Transparency International Greenland (TIG), as such corruption can prevent economic development from benefitting the society as a whole, because the gains either leave the country or are unfairly distributed.

Foreign bribery raises across the world and Greenland too has to be aware of the fact that exporting corruption has occurred – also in some of our neighbouring countries².

Current status on corruption in Greenland

In 2012, TIG published the first independent report based on TI's comparative methodology, a so-called *National Integrity Study (NIS)*³. A NIS study seeks to identify a society's robustness in resisting corruption. The study carried out was not a full NIS study, but in the first instance covered the construction, fisheries and extraction industries, as these are the key pillars in the Greenlandic economy. The study found no indications of widespread corruption in the form of bribery, embezzlement or fraud, but also concluded that Greenland has only a few rather weak institutions, mechanisms and processes to help resist corruption. This implies a high element of risk in

¹ For further details, see Transparency International's Bribe Payers Index 2011 pp. 14-15 and Global Corruption Report 2019, p.54. www.transparency.org

² CPI 2020: trouble at the Top. www.transparency.org

³ The NIS report is available in Danish, Greenlandic and English at the TIG website www.transparency.gl

connection with the massive investments upon which the large-scale projects in Greenland will depend.

Integrity Study 2020

The Greenlandic government carried out a new Integrity Study⁴ in 2020. The consultancy Nordic Consulting Group was appointed for this, and TIG was represented in advisory group.

The report contains a description of Greenland's integrity system in the public sector: resources, political interference in the administration, transparency, whistleblowing and integrity mechanisms.

Recommendations in the Integrity Study include:

- *Complex legislation that is difficult to administer and control*: It is recommended that legislators strive for simple and transparent rules without unnecessary exceptions.
- *Transparency*: Look at legislation to support political parties. Introduce mandatory registration of duties and financial interests also for members of the Naalakkersuisut (Government of Greenland) and municipal councils. Establish a register with collection of data on ownership of shipping companies, permits and quotas for fishing as well as quantities and purchase prices. Make initiatives visible on the Naalakkersuisut website. On the Inatsisartut (Greenlandic parliament) website add corruption as a topic category in legislation.gl. Introduce public tax returns.
- *Accession to conventions*: bring into force the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Bribery Convention.
- *Anti-corruption law and unit for prevention*: in the short term, anchor the corruption efforts in an anti-corruption strategy with an associated action plan and in the longer term in an anti-corruption law and unit.
- *Whistleblower scheme*: create whistleblower schemes for anyone who may wish to report a matter concerning public authority.
- *Audit*: remove exception for legal and audit assistance in tender rules.
- *Audit Committee*: the term of office is extended to a full term.
- *Anti-corruption policies*: everyone, including municipalities and self-governing companies.
- *Education*: both politicians and staff groups at the authorities receive structured and recurring education in anti-corruption.
- *Proficiency rules*: Code of conduct is being drafted.
- *Waiting period*: senior executives for a limited period may not be employed in a place that they, in their previous position, have supervised or supervised.

Global Corruption Barometer

Global Corruption Barometer (GBC) is one of the important tools for Transparency International. In 2016 TIG secured Greenland's participation for the first time. The results were presented in *People and Corruption: Europe and Central Asia*⁵

⁴ Available at Greenlandic and Danish at <https://naalakkersuisut.gl/kl-GL/Naalakkersuisut/Naalakkersuisoqarfiit/Finans/Integritetsstudie>

⁵ <https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/people-and-corruption-europe-and-central-asia-2016>

TIG secured Greenland's participation again in 2020. The international questions were used and surveys conducted by a local consulting company. In 2020, Transparency International chose to present the overall data for Europe in a report involving only EU countries. This excluded Greenland, which is not a member of the EU. The results for Greenland⁶ are available in Danish and Greenlandic and a comparison⁷ made by TIG is also available.

The results say nothing about whether there actually is corruption in the country, but rather about people's experience and perception hereof.

The main conclusions were:

- *Public confidence is lowest in the Government and employees in the Self-Government.* Half of the respondents have little or no confidence that the Government and its staff are trying to do a good job and act fairly. 80% trust the courts and the police.
- *Abuse of power is perceived as a problem.* Nearly 3 out of 5 believe that abuse of power among politicians and officials is a major problem.
- More than 50% believe that some members among Government and Parliament are *abusing their power*. 16% believe that most of them do.
- 60% believe that *abuse of power has worsened* in recent years.
- *The attitude to action* is that 70% agree that everyone can make an effort against corruption.
- Half of the respondents believe the authorities are doing a bad job *fighting abuses of power*.
- The *main reasons why corruption is not reported* are a) that people are afraid of the consequences, b) that people do not know where corruption can be reported, and c) that people know each other too well.
- *Sexism is a widespread phenomenon*.

Recommendations on Boards

In January 2019, TIG submitted its recommendations for more transparency in the appointment of board members in the publicly owned companies⁸. The most important were:

- That it should be easier to find information on how to become a candidate for a board position in a publicly owned company
- That the entire set of competencies that the Board needs to cover is stated on the company's website making it more transparent why different members are elected to the Board
- That a "Handbook in Board work in state-owned and municipality-owned companies" is prepared and distributed to new Board Members.
- That the latest international corporate governance recommendations are used as a standard

⁶ <https://www.transparency.gl/publikationer-og-vaerktojer/>

⁷ chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.transparency.gl%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FGCB-2021-Greenland-and-EU.pdf&clen=307386&chunk=true

⁸ Offentligt ejede selskaber | Grønland: Transparens i udpegning af bestyrelsesmedlemmer og håndtering af interessekonflikter. www.transparency.gl

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Transparency International's (TI) vision is to secure a world in which governments, politics, business life, civil society and people's daily lives are free of corruption, by promoting transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and in all sectors. The organisation consists of more than 100 chapters worldwide, plus an office in Brussel and an international secretariat in Berlin. TI documents and highlights corruption problems, and co-operates with governments, the business community and civil society to implement mechanisms that will effectively counter corruption.

Transparency International's Strategy 2030 *Holding Power to Account* was designed over 2020 in close collaboration and with contributions from all chapters.

The national chapters are independent organisations of civil society which are registered in their home countries and internationally associated with TI. Each chapter has its own board, membership base, strategic priorities and projects, and is responsible for providing its own funding. The TI secretariat in Berlin supports the chapters by providing knowledge and tools (such as the Corruption Perception Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, NIS methodology, etc.), but does not provide financing for such projects. The international secretariat also organises annual regional and global meetings at which the chapters can exchange experience, develop new partnerships and share the latest knowledge on research, initiatives and results achieved in Transparency International as a whole. TIG is part of this structure and supports the TI vision and strategy.

The NIS report suggests that there is low awareness of the risk of corruption in Greenland, and that the institutions, mechanisms and processes available to counteract it are limited. Over the years TIG noted growing interest from politicians and citizens for greater openness and transparency, especially in the private sector. The government has however implemented an internal whistleblower scheme.

Civil society organisations in the country are small and poorly funded, which leaves a void without critical agencies to monitor the situation and hold politicians and officials to account. The media also lack the resources and skills to play a watchdog role. Such a role requires knowledge and technical expertise.

The development of Transparency International Greenland

Transparency Greenland established itself as the Greenlandic Contact Group for TI in 2010, with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of Greenland towards an independence unhampered by corruption and nepotism, to the common benefit of current and future generations. This requires timely action.

In general, the organisation has been welcomed by politicians, the media, civil society, the business world and the wider community – but there are also critical opponents who do not wish more attention to be paid to the issues the organisation raises. Due to the country's size and its limited human resources, TIG attempts to co-operate with other civil society organisations to ensure maximum impact on the sustainability agenda. Together, we try to address issues of transparency, the environment and human rights associated with the development of Greenland.

TI has an extensive admission process for new chapters in the movement, which consists of four phases:

- 1) A broadly-based *contact group* is founded and approved as legitimate by the TI secretariat
- 2) a *National Contact Point* is formed as a civil society organisation, which must demonstrate its viability by maintaining a high level of activity and good results for approximately two years
- 3) The organisation becomes a *National Chapter in Formation* for two or three years
- 4) A full *National Chapter*, which is re-accredited every third year

In 2013, TIG achieved the status of *National Chapter in Formation* and in 2015 TIG became a full National Chapter under Transparency International. TIG's membership was re-accredited in 2018, and in 2019 TIG received the accreditation to continue as a fully accredited National Chapter.

Transparency International Greenland. The 2021 – 2025 strategy

In continuation of Transparency International's new strategy Holding Power to Account valid from 2021 to 2030, TIG prepared its new strategy, which is valid from 2021 to 2025. It builds on and has links to the international strategy for all strategic objectives.

The strategic objectives are:

1. TIG must be a **watchdog** that bites and does not let go again.
2. TIG must put its fingerprint where it is most relevant and have an impact on **structures and processes** in a positive direction within our core areas.
3. TIG must be a **Knowledge Center** for (anti) corruption in Greenland and continuously ensure more knowledge about corruption in Greenland.
4. TIG must be a **communicatively sharp** organization.
5. TIG must **spread knowledge** about corruption in the country.
6. TIG must strive to ensure a solid financial foundation.

The organisation

The Board of TIG has six members, elected at TIG general meeting. At the end of the reporting period, the Board consisted of:

Birita í Dali, chairwoman

Anita Hoffer, vice chairman

Karen Heilmann Lennert

Anja Rindom Bøndergaard

Christian P. Jerimiassen

Bolette Maqe Nielsen

The Board has assigned two expert members: Anne Mette Christiansen and Thomas Trier Hansen. Expert members have no voting rights.

The organisation has a secretariat with one part-time employee Bodil Karlshøj, who works as Executive Director for the TIG secretariat.

RESULTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD 2019 - 2021

Since its foundation, TIG has been very active in its efforts to reach both the public and decision-makers with its messages and concrete solution proposals. TIG has provided expert advice, training and instruction, and promoted citizen involvement. The organisation has acquired new members, been visible in the media, lobbied, given hearing responses, entered into commitments with other civil society organisations and pursued a number of individual cases. TIG has since 2013 been a member of UN Global Compact and had a representative in Greenland's Council for Human Rights.

Engaging Business and interacting with the UN Global Compact

In the following, we briefly account for how we have engaged with companies on Global Compact relevant themes.

Engage with global compact local networks

In Greenland, the local UN Global Compact network is working together with the organization CSR Greenland. CSR Greenland is also the local contact point for UN Global Compact, working to raise awareness of the principles among Greenlandic companies. From the beginning, there has been a very close collaboration between CSR Greenland and TIG.

In the reporting period, TIG has engaged with the local UNGC network through CSR Greenland in the following ways:

- Participated in *Global Goals, Sustainability and CSR education*
- SDG seminars to introduce the Sustainable Development Goals conducted in collaboration between CSR Greenland and TIG
- Guest lecturing on several CSR Greenland training sessions about corruption

TIG also promotes relevant workshops and anticorruption training courses through the CSR Greenland network.

Engage companies in global compact related issues

Given TIGs focus on anticorruption and transparency it is within this area that we have worked to engage companies. Corona-restrictions has delayed our desires for activities, but it is relevant to highlight the following in the reporting period:

- In 2017 TIG published a Handbook in Anti-corruption for Municipalities. The handbook was accompanied by an offer for municipalities to get a specific workshop as well as an offer for training. Due to corona-restrictions courses have been set on stand-by but are continued.
- TIG's participation in the Global Goals, Sustainability and CSR education enabled the spread of knowledge about our work among a number of local companies

Participate in Global Compact local or international events

Given the restrictions for travel it has not been possible to participate in as many international UNGC events as we would have liked to.

The organization prioritizes participation in Transparency International events and in the International Anti Corruption Conference, IACC. Whenever possible, TIG has participated in the regional and global meetings of Transparency International. The purpose of participating in international events overall is for us to learn more about how other chapters work on transparency issues, gather inspiration and get new ideas. Also, we seek opportunities to raise awareness of corruption challenges in Greenland. All these kinds of meetings during the report-period have been web-based.

TIG participated in Conference 'Science Week', workshop on foreign policy, December 2019

Talk Town, Nordic meeting in Nuuk. TIG presented results from Global Corruption Barometer on sexism and sextortion. May 2021.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Below is a selection of other activities in the reporting period. For more information and a more comprehensive overview, please see our annual reports, available at transparency.gl

Training and skills enhancement in the municipalities and departments

TIG has developed a course targeted at these groups that provides participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to work on anti-corruption and transparency. The course is taught by TIG secretary. For use in the course is a handbook of anti-corruption and related slide kit prepared. A special course targeted employees in municipalities is developed and courses held five times in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq. Due to corona-restrictions no courses were held in the report-period.

October 2020: course "businesses and corruption" was held for business members.

2019 and 2020: TIG introduced the organisation to the VL- group (Business Leaders group), Rotary and Nuuk Employers' Association.

Public meetings and members' meetings

- Members meeting 2019 om Whistleblowing.
- Public meeting Dialogue coffee with Özlem Cekic, September 2019
- Members meeting April 2020 on Greenland during the Corona crisis. The restrictions in the light of restricted fundamental freedom rights.
- Members meeting 2021 on Global Corruption Barometer.

Public awareness and media campaigns

Facebook is utilised as a primary channel to collect, discuss and disseminate messages to a wider range of citizens. The Facebook page is very popular and achieved in 2021 visits by more than 1450 individuals.

9/12 2020: Presentation of TIG in national radio.

In April 2021, elections were held for both local councils and for Parliament. The TIG wrote to all candidates, urging them to describe how they would work to increase confidence in politicians, highlight conflicts of interest and reduce abuses of power, and whether they would work for Greenland's accession to the UN Anti-Corruption Convention. They could publish the answer on their own Facebook page under # transparentvalg2021. Only quite a few chose to present their answers. The campaign was well covered by the media and the messages thus reached out.

Our chairwoman and board-members have appeared in the Greenlandic, Danish and international media, and has thereby placed transparency on the agenda. Some of the topics have been:

- Criticism of the Danish press' handling of false accusations against a top Greenlandic politician.
- Politicians' lack of competence - quotas and allocation of support

- Information on and comments to an investigation 'The power elite in Greenland'
- Recommendation for joining the UN Convention against corruption
- Politicians' conflicts of interest
- Procurement law and whistleblowing.
- A number of interviews on current political issues, such as whistleblowing and anti-corruption efforts, were included in the press's articles.

Hearings

TIG is often invited to submit consultation responses to, for example, new legislation, in other cases unsolicited consultation responses are provided. All consultation responses are available on our website.

Meetings

Internal meetings: Board meetings are held 8-10 times a year and minutes from Board meetings and the General Assembly are available on the website www.transparency.gl.

External meetings: TIG has been invited to a series of meetings with foreign embassies and researchers from different countries. In addition, meetings were held with the Department of Foreign Affairs and representatives from EU. The most important meetings are discussed in Board minutes, which are available on the website.

- Eavan Cully og Malou Celander, US Embassy Danmark
- Member of Folketinget (Danish Parliament) Aaja Chemnitz Larsen
- TI-Denmark, boardmembers
- Members of Naalakkersuisut (Government of Greenland)
- Members of Inatsisartut (Parliament of Greenland)
- Konrad-Ardenauer-Stiftung

NGO coalition

At TIG, we find it important to collaborate with other local NGO's to strengthen civil society. TIG to have its secretariat in a local 'NGO Community House' with other organisations.

If you want to know more

You can read more about TIG on our website www.transparency.gl which provides information in English (not must), Danish and Greenlandic. Here you can find our annual reports accounting for our full activities each year.

If you have questions or would like to join our organization, please to not hesitate to contact us at info@transparency.gl.

